Domestic Fertilizers

(Qty. in LMT) (Value Rs. Crores)

	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
DAP	20.80	12.95	222.30	193.96	—	—
MOP	157.44	53.16	145.34	57.94	15.00	5.99
UREA	—	—	388.97	94.92	278.00	69.09

Export incentive Schemes

1518. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing export incentive schemes;

(b) whether Government propose to review the incentive for exporters;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that there has been misuse of the incentive schemes;

(e) if so, the details in this regard; and

(f) the measures Government propose to take to streamline the schemes for ensuring transparency and result orientation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The main Export Promotion Schemes in the Export and Import Policy, 1992—97, include Advance Licensing Scheme, Export Oriented Units/Export Processing Zones Scheme, Software Technology Parks, Electronic Hardware Technology Parks Scheme and Diamond, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Scheme which encourage export production by facilitating easy access to raw materials/components, capital goods required for production at competitive prices. Annual reviews of the Policy have been undertaken to further simplify and rationalise the various Export Promotion Schemes to make them more useful and provide the stimulous for higher export growth.

(d) and (e) Some complaints have been received relating to misuse of export incentives such as Cash Compensatory Support, Replenishment licences, Exim scrips, International Price re-embursement scheme and payment of duty drawback etc. It has been alleged in these complaints that such incentives were availed off or admitted to be availed off on the basis of misdeclaration, forged documents and suppression of material facts. All such complaints are investigated and penal action such as debarment, imposition of fiscal penalty and suspension of Importer-Exporter code No. are taken under the relevant statutory provision. Some cases are also referred to the CBI for prosectuion.

(f) Government is continuously interacting with the Trade and Industry, Export Promotion Councils, Apex Organisations like FIEO, FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM etc. to make the various export promotion schemes more transparent, practical and useful for boosting exports.

Sale of Imported Fertilizers by MMTC

1519. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MMTC sells imported fertilizers in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the quantum of fertilizers sold in Tamil Nadu in 1995-96 and the current year;

(c) whether any interest free credit is given by MMTC to Tamil Nadu dealers;

(d) if not, reasons for denial of interest free credit to Tamil Nadu dealers;

(e) whether it is a fact that other States like Andhra Pradesh get interest free credit for long periods;

(f) the reasons for this dual policy; and

(g) whether MMTC has encouraged this practice for some reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The quantum of fertilizers sold in Tamil Nadu in 1995-96 and 1996-97 (Upto Jan.'97) is given below:

Fig. in ('000 MT)

Product	1995-96	1996-97 (Upto Jan.'97)
Urea	10.9	18.05
MOP	16.0	19.20

(c) to (g) MMTC's existing policy to extend short term interest free credit to all parties against Bank Guarantee/Letter of Credit. This is uniformly applicable to all States.

Loss due to some diseases to the Pepper Plants

1520. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cultivation of pepper plants are facing a threat to the cultivation due to some diseases which affected the plants during the last few years resulting in destruction of almost all the pepper plants in the districts of Idukky and Wayanadu in Kerala;

(b) which are the areas where pepper cultivation was mostly done; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to help the agriculturists in checking the diseases and to help them financially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) The major pepper growing districts of Kerala were affected by Quick Wilt disease of pepper.

(b) Black pepper is grown as mono crop to some extent in higher elevation and hill slopes in Idukki & Wyanad districts; and

(c) During the 8th Plan, Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices with an outlay of Rs. 125 crores. Under this programme, for undertaking prophylactic plant protection measures to check the incidence of quick will disease, an allocation of Rs. 27.90 crores has been made for the 8th Plan period. Farmers are provided subsidy to the extent of 50% of the cost of plant protection chemicals, limited to Rs. 1860 per ha.

Freeze of Payment by US for the Import of Urea

1521. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of USA had frozen US $25 million that India was sending to Libya for payment of the import of Urea;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by India to get the amount released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The amount involved is US $2.5 million and not US $ 25 million. MMTC had opened a Letter of Credit (L/C) for US $2.5 Million in favour of National Oil Company, Libya for purchase of 13,817 MTS of urea, through Indian Overseas Bank. The L/C was confirmed by Union Bank of Switzerland, Indian Overseas Bank as per instructions of Union Bank of Switzerland, remitted the amounts through Chase Manhattan Bank, New York who froze this amount, the entire